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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 4373**  
Hiroshi HIRAI et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2005\_0629A  
Serial No. 10/532,677 : Group Art Unit 1624  
Filed June 15, 2005 : Examiner T. Truong  
NOVEL QUINOXALINONE DERIVATIVES : **Mail Stop: Amendment**

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action dated December 12, 2006.

The Official Action constitutes a requirement for restriction.

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group 2, with traverse.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of Group 2 should be examined with the inventions of Groups 1, 3 and 4.

A partial structure B of the formula (I) is a linker to form a cyclic structure, i.e. quinoxalinone ring. The compound of the present invention forms a basic skeleton by the linker B which is quite unique in comparison with the prior art (please see the English translation of International Preliminary Report on Patentability attached hereto).

The compounds of Groups 1, 2 and 3 differ with each other only in the number of elements (members) constituting the chain of B (4 to 6 elements).

Further, the invention of Group 4 relates to a compound wherein B is composed of 5 elements (or 6 elements). Therefore, the compounds of Group 4 have a common structural feature with the compounds of Groups 1, 2 and 3.

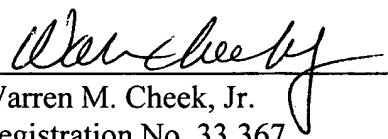
Therefore, the inventions of Groups 1 to 4 are very related to each other.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions of Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 are so related that they constitute a single invention and should be issued in a single patent.

Favorable reconsideration and action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi HIRAI et al.

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